

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters
Jim Robillard
Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
Arlington Senior Center
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

Members in attendance included: Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, Jim Robillard and Associate Members Elena Bartholomew and Peter Hedlund. Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Christian Klein, Roly Chaput, Ken Zimmerman, Paul Carroll, Bill Reilly, Bob Simmons, Rich Flynn, Jim Hassler, Brian Malo, Tom Ahern, Henry Brush, Kristin Garrigus, Luci Tarquino, Sean Alton, Jane Howard, Niloufer Moochhala, Julie Vakoc and Robin Olinsky.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from January 13, 2015 were approved on a motion by Ms. Canniff, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0-1 with Mr. Robillard abstaining.

Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no comments.

Possible Sign Bylaw Changes

Mr. Klein reviewed the language for the proposed bylaw amendment with the Commission. Mr. Klein stated that the bylaw would be both a zoning change and a Board of Selectmen article. The Commission will wait for the outcome of Town Meeting and then if necessary draft policy for their signs on their property in accordance with approved bylaw language. The Commission thanked Mr. Klein for all of his hard work and for pushing this issue to make sure it came to some resolution among all parties involved.

Summer Street Field Upgrade Requests – Babe Ruth

Mr. Malo and Mr. Ahern reviewed the eleven request items from their memo. The Commission discussed each item with the Summer Street Baseball group.

1. Batting Cage in Right Field - The Commission approved in concept on a pilot basis but asked Babe Ruth to come back to the March 24th meeting with product specifications and an exact location shown on a map.

422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474
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2. Temporary Outfield Fence - The Commission approved in concept on a pilot basis but asked Babe Ruth to come back to the March 24th meeting with product specifications.
3. Tarps on Pitchers Mounds and Home Plate - Both the Commission and DPW said that should be fine. Babe Ruth will have to purchase the tarps.
4. Bull Pen Area - Basically building a mound and plate behind both benches for warming up. These areas already exist and the Town would just need to build a mound - This can be done by DPW after the initial spring field prep is complete. This will take DPW time and some money for extra infield mix.
5. Water hook up to spray down the field - DPW said this may be doable; they just have to locate the water line and see where they can install a spickett.
6. Cleaning of the lights and conversion to LED - There is no money in the capital plan to convert the lights to LED but we did discuss cleaning the light shields. The Town would need to hire Siemens' electric because they have the equipment to reach the pole heights. The best time to do this is when the ground is hard.
7. Backstop Improvements - This is in the FY 2016 capital requests. If approved we will meet with Babe Ruth to assist in the design.
8. Repairing the Lips and Extra Infield Mix - This is standard spring maintenance that DPW already does.
9. Independent Contractor to mow the infield on occasion - Mr. Connelly suggested that Babe Ruth talk to AYBSL's contractor that does Buck Field and the mowing for Summer Street infield be rolled that into that agreement. Babe Ruth would pick up the cost on this.
10. Additional Storage Box- They need to send Mr. Connelly the specifications of the storage box with the proposed location and a formal proposal including what they will be placing in the box. Once we have that info the Commission does not see a problem with adding a storage box. Babe Ruth would have to pick up the cost on the storage box.
11. Renaming to the Field to Jim Robillard Park -The Commission fully supports the idea but it is up to the Public Memorial Committee and the BOS.

Ms. Canniff motioned to support the eleven recommended items in concept including a 1-year pilot program for the batting cage and temporary fence, however before final approval is granted requested additional information on the specifications and location of the batting cage and fence. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0-1 with Mr. Robillard abstaining.

AYBSA – Buck Field Scoreboard Review

Mr. Ken Zimmerman representing AYBSL presented the proposal for an electronic scoreboard to the Commission. Mr. Zimmerman reviewed the cost, specifications, location, color and other details with the Commission. Mr. Vitters asked if the current blue color could eventually be changed to maroon to match the brick in the dugouts. Mr. Zimmerman said that was a possibility.

Mr. Zimmerman explained that the scoreboard would start of being hardwired to a console in one of the dugouts but may eventually be upgraded to a wireless unit.

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The Commission and AYBSL discussed the location and electric conduit detail.

Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the electric scoreboard as long as the plans are reviewed by the Town's electrical inspector and building inspector, built per manufacturer recommendation, and the project is coordinated the Recreation Department. The motion was seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Mr. Connelly asked AYBSL to please have the final plans to him for review as early as possible as well as the contractor's liability insurance naming the town as additional insured.

Arlington Soccer Club – Program and Field Review

Members of the Arlington Soccer Club made a presentation to the Commission. The presentation included information about the ASC program, participants and philosophy. ASC highlighted the growth trends in the program, which is mirroring the growth in school age population. ASC is excited to look at additional field opportunities with the Town.

ASC discussed possibilities of temp lighting at Thorndike Field in the fall. The Commission thought a discussion of the proposal was warranted and asked Mr. Connelly to set up a public hearing with abutters to discuss the idea.

The Commission thanked the members of ASC for sharing their presentation with the Commission and thanked them for all they do for the youth of Arlington.

Art Rocks Spy Pond: Entry and Location Approval

Ms. Howard and Ms. Mochhala reviewed the twelve entries to this year's art in the park event with the Commission. The Commission reviewed the location, material and how each item was to be secured.

The following were the Commission's concerns and asked Ms. Howard and Ms. Mochhala to gather more information and come to the March 24th meeting.

1. Walk Around Prior to Event to Review Locations and Mark Irrigation Heads
2. All use of concrete bases - Would prefer the concrete not be poured on site and the bases are poured off site.
3. #6 - Freedom Bird- Use of garden wire as base and the location should be moved away from the path as much as possible.
4. #10 - Use of 10" long wooden stakes - Issues is if kids climb under them and pull out could cause safety issue
5. # 11 - New location and use of 4 - 20" poured cement bases

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6. #12 - Make sure fence location is not on the baseball field fence
7. Should be clear that loom removed from site can be stored next to storage shed at end of Pond Lane. Any holes dug should be backfilled with loam and seeded.

Public Art Guideline Approval

The Commission reviewed the amended Public Art Guidelines as approved by the Public Art Committee. Ms. Rothenberg and Mr. Connelly reviewed the changes as requested by the sub group. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the guidelines, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0. The Commission thanked the Public Art Committee for their hard work in assisting to draft a much needed town wide policy.

Special Requests

Kevin Duffy Signage for Spy Pond Swan – Tabled

Peirce Baseball Field – Cause and Effect Boston Charity Run

The Commission reviewed the event with Ms. Vacok and Ms. Olinsky. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to inform any other user groups that the parking situation would be difficult on that morning. Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the use of the baseball outfield as requested for a fee of \$150, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Commission Topic Leader Discussion

Recreation Updates – No report at this time.

Capital - No report at this time.

Policies and Procedures – No report at this time.

ADA – Mr. Connelly handed our copies of the final ADA report.

Special Events - No report at this time.

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Field Management – Mr. Connelly reviewed the spring field user meeting with the Commission and explained that he was working on putting together a field summit.

Off Leash Park Program – No report at this time.

Friends of Parks – Ms. Rothenberg stated that the group just met prior to this meeting and was working on solidifying a meeting schedule.

Open Space - No report at this time.

Town Master Plan – No report at this time.

Funding Opportunities – No report at this time.

Technology and Web Management – No report at this time.

Vision 2020 – No report at this time.

DPW - No report at this time.

Capital Projects Update

Mr. Connelly quickly reviewed the capital projects stating that the Spy Pond Tennis Court project is out to bid and that the 2016 projects were being recommended to Town Meeting.

Other

Ms. Rothenberg stated that she would review the TAC memo for Spy Pond Tennis at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

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